

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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RESUBMISSION WILLCOX MRA

Morgan House (242 E. Maley)
Cochise County
ARIZONA

The Morgan House was returned by the reviewer for a clarification of applicable criteria and area of significance. The reviewer suggested that additional significant information be researched to justify criterion "B". The Morgan House was nominated under criteria "B" and "C". Criterion "C" was considered justified by the reviewer. This document is an addendum to the original nomination that justifies significance under criterion "B" for the significance area of commerce. This addendum does not change the boundary of the nominated property.

As stated previously in the MRA cover document, the Norton-Morgan Commercial Company was formed when Henry Morgan purchased the Stewart interests in the firm of Norton and Stewart. Morgan had worked for the firm approximately four years in various capacities before leaving to operate stores in Fort Thomas and Solomonville. He had been the bookkeeper for the store at Fort Grant. Shortly after his return as a partner (circa 1900), a new store was built at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Stewart Street. Both wholesale and retail business was carried on for many years, and at the height of operations, six people were employed in the office and sixteen in the store. The Norton-Morgan Commercial Company held the corner on the market of supplying southwestern Arizona with agricultural supplies and other commodities. Besides providing the local ranchers and cowboys with their needed supplies, it also served the military posts at Fort Bowie, Fort Grant, and Fort Thomas throughout their existence.

Willcox was a logical center for a banking industry. Mining business in the area were growing, and there were many large cattle interests within the Sulphur Springs Valley. Henry Morgan played a significant role in establishing banking firms within Willcox. As stated previously in the nomination, it was in 1890 that a local branch of the North American Savings, Loan and Building Company was established by John H. Norton, H. A. Morgan, W. F. Nichols, J. A. Bright, and Charles Pugh as the board of directors. Also, on November 2, 1908, the Willcox Bank and Trust Company was incorporated. It opened for business on January 18, 1909, with H. A. Morgan as president; Horace Dunlap, cashier; and John H. Norton, Thomas Allaire, and A. Y. Smith, directors.

Morgan was also concerned with civic improvements. For example, in 1900, the long-awaited volunteer fire department was organized with twenty-one members, and subscriptions were taken for the purchase of equipment. Buckets and axes were stored

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at strategic locations around town, and water was supplied by private windmills and tanks. Norton and Morgan, along with the Schwertners, later installed a four-inch pipeline from the Southern Pacific water tank across the tracks to supply hydrants near their business establishments.

Morgan was also active in city politics. As stated previously in the nomination, Willcox was incorporated on May 3, 1915. Morgan, along with H. L. McCoy, J. W. Angle, A. A. Nicholson, and L. V. McCourt, was appointed as an acting councilman until a city election could be held in 1916. The first council meeting was held on May 12. Morgan was chosen as mayor, and H. L. McCoy was chosen as clerk. The council immediately adopted ordinances specifying the time and place of future meetings, the duties of various officials, and the salaries to be paid to city employees.

I concur with the statements as presented in this resubmission:

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Shereen Kerner
Title SHPO Date 7/2/87